

#### MAZHAB

at all. These two classes—the *Lumpenproletariat* and the discontented job-hunters—are a fruitful source of tension. Then it must be said, and I say it with a due sense of responsibility, that in some cases the police are corrupt and in touch with the *goondas*. Any little Hindu-Muslim quarrel is carried further and utilised by designing politicians or other unscrupulous persons. Only too often police supervision collapses, because the police have been in the past the instruments of suppression rather than keepers of the peace. Again and again there have been complaints that riots have raged with little being done to stop them till late in the day. It is a bitter fact that we may not shirk that the very forces which have controlled the police are those which have allowed feudalism and social parasitism to continue.

The remarkable thing is that riots do not spread very rapidly. The people are not naturally violent. The increase of political consciousness is having the effect of localising riots. The numbers of those killed or injured decreases. There is far less mass participation in them than in the past.

Recent events in Cawnpore are significant. This is a turbulent city with just those elements of *goondas* and petty unemployed such as we have described. One of the main ways of trying to divert the growing militancy of the Cawnpore workers has been to play on communal differences. It has failed. The Muslim workers have joined the union and have defied all efforts to separate them from their Hindu comrades. Last year a Muslim foreman was murdered and this was used to provoke the Muslims in an alarming fashion, but, thanks to the Left Wing labour leaders, the attempt was foiled, and when, later, these leaders were arrested the City Congress Committee's President—a moderate man and a Gandhist—remarked that the Congress's best friends had been attacked and the city delivered